

adds that "Marx had not foreseen the reduction of mortality."

In the chapter on Migration he mentions the case of Brazil, where the population increases at the rate of 2 per cent per annum, and the rate of increase may be getting larger. Certainly, the increase of world population is a matter for the serious consideration of all of us: see the review of *Four Thousand Million Mouths* in the issue of this journal for January 1952.

C. F. ARDEN-CLOSE.

**Frumkin, Gregory.** *Population Changes in Europe since 1939: A Study of Population Changes in Europe during and since World War II as shown by the Balance Sheets of Twenty-four European Countries.* London, 1951. Allen & Unwin. Pp. 191. Price 30s.

THERE is a Preface by Professor J. B. Condliffe, of the University of California, in which he points out the great amount of labour which the writing of this book has involved and he remarks that it is a quarry for statisticians to dig in. The author worked for more than two years at this book, dealing with country by country, by means of "balance sheets." He acknowledges the help that he received from Professor D. Glass, amongst others. The small diagrams of birth- and death-rates, given early in the book, serve to show the disturbances caused by the two German wars, especially World War II. The present state of the populations of a great part of continental Europe is due to military losses, captivities, mass murders of civilians, and transfers of population, deaths of deportees, racial persecution, and a general unchaining of primitive brutality.

Amongst the detailed studies none is more interesting than the investigation of the population of Germany. Apparently the numbers in Western Germany had gone up from 44.8 million in 1946 to 47.6 million in September 1950. The Soviet Zone held about 17.5 million in the former year.

The author remarks that a characteristic feature of the last war was that the main loss

of population was not due to fighting, but to mass murder. "Only a small fraction of the Jews in countries under German control escaped the Nazi mass death factories."

We must not forget the large losses of the Soviet armies and civilians, thought by the author to be more than 17 million! But there is also to be reckoned the increase of the Soviet population by the absorption of alien territories, together with a considerable natural increase. And, on the other hand, we should remember "the eviction from the Slav countries of almost all German minorities." The author rightly remarks that, "Political conceptions . . . based on the principle of segregation together with narrow national planning in the economic field, are hardly consistent with the dream of a United Europe." Of course, Great Britain will always be ready to support the idea of a United Continental Europe, whilst our main concern, for ourselves, is the firm establishment and development of the humane, progressive, liberal-minded, freedom-loving, British Commonwealth.

C. F. ARDEN-CLOSE.

**Hutchinson, Bertram.** i, *Depopulation and Rural Life in the Solway Counties*, pp. 110; ii, *Depopulation and Rural Life in the Tweed Valley*, pp. 60; iii, *Depopulation and Rural Life in Aberdeen and Banff*, pp. 63; iv, *Depopulation and Rural Life in Scotland*, pp. 36. London, 1949. Central Office of Information. (N.S. 120, 120b, 120c, 120d.)

THESE four reports of an inquiry conducted by the National Survey for the Department of Health for Scotland shed further light on a problem which has been concerning Scotsmen for some years past. Rural depopulation is not a new phenomenon; it has been going on for several centuries at least, and would appear to be the almost inevitable accompaniment of a complex civilization and higher material standard of living. Concentration of the population in cities appears not only in older nations like Scotland but also in more recently settled

countries, like Australia. No one can regret the disappearance of the "black houses" of the Scottish Highlands, or the overcrowded cottages of the Lowlands, where many, and large, families existed on a bare subsistence level. Some degree of depopulation seems necessary to enable the remainder to reach a satisfactory standard of living. But the cities need the countryside even more than the country needs cities. Besides being a "food factory" for the cities, the rural areas have acted as a reservoir of population which made the development of city life possible and it is in the country districts that those conditions and standards characteristic of a community are most firmly entrenched and stable. The question has now arisen whether the rural depopulation has gone too far for the well-being of the whole nation, and whether the forces behind this movement are now too strong to be reversible at will.

Population statistics do not reveal the full extent of the problem. At the Edinburgh meeting of the British Association, Mr. J. G. Kyd, until recently Registrar-General for Scotland, pointed out the change in the constitution of the population of many rural areas. The average age was rising steadily, due to emigration of the younger people, only partially counterbalanced in numbers by immigration of retired folk from the cities. Also, the findings of the Scottish Mental Survey indicate that the average intelligence of children leaving rural areas is higher than that of children entering those areas. The potential loss in both quantity and quality is probably much greater than the figures for net loss suggest.

The aim of the inquiry under review was to find out from the country people themselves what they thought of their conditions of living, and what were their reasons for wanting to emigrate, or remain. A random sample of the adult population was chosen for each district, and the views of these informants obtained by question and answer in a personal interview. The ground covered in the interview was extensive and the co-operation of the informants appears to have been very satisfactory. A full analysis

of the answers of the informants is given in the appendices of each volume; indeed, the very comprehensive recording of the machinery of the survey deserves commendation.

Country dwellers have quite a considerable list of grievances, housing conditions being the main one. Rightly, no attempt is made to assess the justification for these grievances, as a man with a strong but ill-founded grievance is as likely to migrate as a man with an equally strong but well-founded grievance. But the facts elicited do indicate that housing conditions in these rural areas are in many respects worse than those for Scotland as a whole, and still more so than for Great Britain. Even so, just over 50 per cent of the informants were satisfied with their houses, a slightly larger percentage than was found in Glasgow. Most wanted a new house, and were willing to pay a higher rent for it. (Aberdeen was not willing to pay so much as the other districts.) Transport and education were among other sources of discontent; and it is becoming clear that both transport and education authorities, by closing down "uneconomic" services, are themselves contributors to rural depopulation.

We cannot summarize here the other causes of rural discontent. This has been done admirably in the fourth of these booklets, where the data from the three surveys are reviewed by the author. No single cause predominates, and a postal inquiry among rural emigrants only confirms the data already in hand. The main points that stand out are that the volume of migration is not great, but is a steady trickle. About 10 per cent of the rural informants wanted to migrate, and only about 1.5 per cent of these had actually made plans to leave. Secondly, the incidence of potential migrants was greatest in the professional and "white collar" occupations, and least in agriculture. Also, the incidence was much higher in the younger age groups. It is there that the real danger lies.

Inquiries such as these are a necessary part in any survey of rural life and population. They concentrate not on the statistics

of economic and material conditions but on the more vital questions of what the people think about their conditions, and what they believe their needs to be. A parallel inquiry into the attitudes and ambitions of city dwellers would be interesting and pertinent; and if such were to be made we would hope it be conducted with the same thoroughness and imagination as these inquiries into rural life.

JAMES MAXWELL.

**Milbank Memorial Fund.** *Approaches to Problems of High Fertility in Agrarian Societies: Papers presented at the 1951 Annual Conference.* New York, 1952: Milbank Memorial Fund. Pp. 171. Price \$1.00.

It is to be hoped that the contents of this timely volume will be in the hearts and heads of all the delegates to the coming Bombay Conference of the International Planned Parenthood Committee. For this is an up to the minute survey of our present knowledge of the approaches to the problems of those countries now in the early expanding phase of the demographic cycle.

The papers in this volume were given to the 1951 Annual Conference of the Milbank Memorial Fund, under the chairmanship of Professor Frank W. Notestein.

After an introductory talk on the demographic gap by Dr. Rupert B. Vance, of the University of North Carolina, which he subtitled "the dilemma of modernization programs," the conference discussed the problems under three headings, cultural bases of agrarian fertility patterns, means of fertility control and implications for research and policy.

Professor Vance's discussion of "this widening spread between fertility and mortality we call the demographic gap" highlighted the facts that the industrialization of India and China will take place without the "slack for demographic growth" of earlier industrial revolutions, and that, since the closure of the gap is usually a slow process, the possibility cannot be ruled out that the gap might be closed by a reascent of mortality rates.

With this tragic possibility in mind, it is very interesting to read Dr. Arthur C. Bunce's opinion that provided there were a new, simple, contraceptive method available, there would not be any basic antagonism on the part of Oriental women towards fertility control. Since Dr. Bunce lived for some years in Korea and for the last five was Chief of the Economic Co-operation Administration Special Missions to Korea and Thailand, this view carries weight. Again and again throughout this conference from different angles, speakers stress that present Western contraceptive methods are quite unsuitable for agrarian communities; a fact brought out sharply in the paper on the control of fertility in Japan, whose authors conclude that "the availability of contraceptive products in the markets and the availability of medical consultation for those willing to take advantage of it do not insure the use of contraception even in a population strongly motivated to limit fertility." In Japan, of course, abortion was available in 1950 and its effect is discussed in the end section of this paper.

Dr. Clair E. Folsome reviews recent research in the biochemical and medical fields, with particular reference to methods suitable for agrarian communities. All who heard Mr. Pirie's recent address to the *Eugenics Society*, will find it particularly interesting to compare the two surveys, since both underlined, to borrow Dr. Folsome's lively sentence, the "great need for large-scale investigations, under the freedom of academic ægis, if means to control this reproductive nutritional time bomb is to become available."

Puerto Rico, with its runaway population increase, is a "sharp illustration of the grave population problem of a large part of the world" and, since the population challenge has been recognized and is being met both by the Government and others, the people of Puerto Rico are living a pilot survey for other agrarian areas. Dr. Paul K. Hatt's paper on his study of some social and psychological aspects of human fertility in Puerto Rico merits a review to itself. Happily his forthcoming book will certainly be discussed